

that were essential to protecting the constitutional rights of Americans of color—this was during Reconstruction—they were, if you will, voted along party lines? But from 1917 to 1994, civil rights were crushed by the use of the filibuster.

And so I rise today to ask for the better angels of the other body, two Members who happen to be Democratic Senators, and others who are in total lockstep in the other party.

But listen to William E. Mason saying: "But every schoolboy in the United States knows that the Senate is practically the only parliamentary body in the world where the majority cannot transact the public business, and where the minority instead of the majority transacts the business of the country." Senator William E. Mason, April 21, 1897, a Republican.

I ask for mercy. As someone who worked for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, who had the privilege of being here for the reauthorization in the mid-2000s, who wrote the Coretta Scott bill legislation that was added that said no mid-term redistricting, and as well helped rename the bill at that time to many icons of diversity.

I want to conclude my remarks by referring to Martin Luther King's mountaintop speech, to read as much of it as I can. He speaks at the beginning by saying if he had sneezed when he was knifed by a demented woman in the 1950s, he says, I wouldn't have been around in 1962 when Negroes in Albany, Georgia, decided to straighten their backs up. And whenever men and women straighten their backs up, they are going somewhere, because a man can't ride your back unless it is bent.

If I had sneezed, I wouldn't have been here in 1963 when the Black people of Birmingham, Alabama, aroused the conscience of this Nation and brought into being the civil rights bill.

If I had sneezed, I wouldn't have had a chance later that year, in August, to try and tell America about a dream that I had had.

If I had sneezed, I wouldn't have been in Selma, Alabama, or Memphis.

And then they were telling me, now, it doesn't matter, now. It really doesn't matter what happens. I left Atlanta this morning, and as we got started the pilot said we had to stop for a moment because Dr. Martin Luther King is on the plane, we have to check and see if there were bombs.

And then I got into Memphis. And some began to say the threats or talk about the threats that were out. What would happen to me from some of our sick brothers, who did not look like me?

Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now because I've been to the mountaintop.

And I don't mind.

Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I

am not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He has allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over, and I've seen the promised land.

That is today, today, January 19, 2022.

I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the promised land.

And so I'm happy tonight.

I'm not worried about anything.

I'm not fearing any man.

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.

Those who say they honor him, do not disgrace him. Vote for the Voting Rights Act.

CELEBRATING MARY LOU HAND'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true American patriot, a true American hero. Ms. Mary Lou Hand just turned 100 years old on January 15, 2022. She is from Wall, Texas.

Mary Lou served this country as a nurse in the Army in World War II. After first being stationed in Maryland and Mississippi, she was sent to England, where she provided critical care for the wounded; and, more importantly, she raised soldiers' spirits by spreading laughter.

It was during her service in England that she met her husband, Bob. The two had six children together and lived in three countries and subsequently seven States.

Ms. Mary Lou Hand has 6 children, 13 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren. She has cultivated a life of love and family, filled with gratitude.

Throughout her century of life, she has dedicated her time to helping others. Her selfless dedication has played out through her commitment to her family as well as her impressive career serving our country and caring for others.

Mary Lou, thank you for your service and happy birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF JOHN "J.B." BYERS, SR.

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to tell you about another patriot. You know, we have patriots, and we have leaders, servant leaders throughout our entire country. This is a special one that I would like to talk about in the community of Staten Island, Mr. John "J.B." Byers, Sr.

A New Jersey native, Mr. Byers began his remarkable 40-year career delivering letters for the U.S. Postal Service at the USPS Mariners Harbor Post Office and subsequently served 18 years at the Port Richmond office.

During his four decades of exemplary service, John has become a fixture of the community. He has become beloved by those he happily served for so many years on his daily route.

The best measure of John's success was not how efficient he was at his job, but it was the undeniable impact he had on his neighbors in the communities that he served so well. He went above and beyond in his duties, taking time to engage in the community, the lives and the livelihoods of the people he served every single day.

His influence is evident by the meaningful and positive impact he made on those who knew him best, his neighbors, his colleagues, and his friends. Story after story from coworkers and community members alike show J.B.'s generosity, kindness, and work ethic. So much so that on John's last day at the U.S. Postal Service, those on his route threw him a surprise party to demonstrate how much the service that he did for them meant to them and their lives.

John dedicated his life to his community through his career, and he became a trusted friend and familiar face to all. But even with his tenured and successful career, I know the greatest joy for him today stems from the beautiful family he and his wife, Kathleen, have raised. As he enters retirement, John and Kathleen are celebrating the birth of their first grandchild, Madison Patricia Byers, who was born on December 23, 2021.

More than a mailman, J.B. has brought great joy and integrity to countless families and neighborhoods, and we thank him for his service to his community.

HONORING MRS. PAM BURKE

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and dedication of Mrs. Pam Burke of San Angelo, Texas.

Mrs. Burke runs the Wesley Soup Kitchen, a wonderful ministry that has been providing meals, along with love and care, to all those in need since 1948.

Mrs. Burke has been at the Wesley Soup Kitchen for the past 12 years, preparing over 200 meals a day. In addition to feeding the homeless and those less fortunate, this ministry provides holiday meals and has been a consistent combatant of malnutrition and hunger throughout the community.

Mrs. Burke is a wonderful example of God's calling in John, chapter 21 to feed His sheep. For no monetary gain of her own, Mrs. Burke dedicates her time and her energy to opening her arms and caring for the community.

I know I am not alone in saying that I am grateful for the mission of the Wesley Soup Kitchen and am honored to know that wonderfully impassioned individuals like Mrs. Pam Burke are working throughout each of our communities.

PROTECT THE RIGHT TO VOTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, this great Nation was founded on a fundamental promise, a promise that, as